

my experiment, therefore, I ceased to remain passive in such situations. I interfered to prevent actual bullying, and showed that I disapproved of it—but without strong moral reproaches and without, in my turn, being aggressive to the bullies, that is to say, without doing to them what they had wanted to do to the younger children, without fulfilling their phantasies of talion punishment. It was not only the younger children who were now saved from teasing or interference, and became more contented, but also the elder, stronger children, who now felt safeguarded against their own impulses.

Such an attitude is often uncovered in the analysis of certain types of adults, as, for example, with an obsessional neurotic patient of my own, with very marked aggressive impulses. When he was a young child, these sadistic impulses had undoubtedly had a certain amount of real expression, in the secret teasing of a helpless baby brother, as well as in the fact that his real mother had been over-indulgent and morally weak, so that he had been able to tyrannise over her by virtue of her love for him. It has been very striking how, in the course of the analysis, when these aggressive phantasies have been turned upon *me* (as the representative of his mother), they have aroused the greatest anxiety in his mind, on the ground of my being in reality much smaller and weaker than he, so that if he gave way to his aggressive impulses he could in reality do me physical damage. The idea of my *helplessness* before the drive of his aggressive impulses was extremely disturbing to him, and until it was itself brought into the light of day, made it impossible for him to reveal the aggressive phantasies themselves. This reinforces the view that it is essential for the child

to feel that
the adult who is responsible for him, who has
the parental
function towards him, should be really
stronger than he,
not only in the physical sense, but in the
psychological sense
also; that the child should not be able to
prostitute the
mother's love by using it for his own purposes,
for tormenting
her and winning self-indulgence ; that he should
not, in fact,
be able to find more than a minimal amount of
direct satis-
faction for his aggressive impulses. Otherwise,
her love
becomes a much less valuable thing to him
than it would
be when associated with the power of real
(though mild)
control and firm (though liberal) training.